



# JORDAN TIMES

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Mondays.  
Advertising and subscription rates are available from the  
Jordan Times advertising department.

## Can Europe step in?

WHATEVER our reservations about the present American efforts at Middle East peacemaking, there has long been general agreement among virtually all parties that the United States -- and, some would say, only the United States -- is in a position to play a mediatory role in trying to get a Middle East settlement.

The Camp David process and the resulting Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty -- will all the questions it leaves unanswered about the crucial issue of Palestinian national rights -- has revealed the sometimes alarming flaws in this thinking. All the goodwill at President Carter's disposal leaving aside the strategic ambitions of some of his policy planners, and all the leverage the U.S. should be capable of exerting with the Israelis, have not been able to produce a plan acceptable to the majority of Arabs.

Is there, then, an alternative to the American role? Jordan is among the Arab states who, apart from pushing for a reconvening of the Geneva conference, have looked to the European Community in this connection. The countries of the Nine have long relationships with the Middle East -- diplomatic, political, economic and commercial -- which have grown steadily stronger. Britain and France once had mandated colonial responsibilities in the Near East; no one can ignore the potential incentive for Britain, particularly, to undo the injustices that were done in Palestine under its aegis.

That is history, however. Today's reality is that Britain, France, Germany and Italy particularly have established a dynamic partnership with the Arab World -- particularly in trade and oil matters. Not only that, the Europeans -- for the most part free of the Zionist constraints which influence American foreign policy -- have shown a commendable willingness to make their own good offices available in the interests of a just and permanent peace.

In a dispatch from Brussels the other day, Britain's *Guardian* newspaper reported that, "apart from the unsettling effect of the proposed treaty on Jordan and Saudi Arabia, some European diplomats are also wary about U.S. moves to involve Western Europe in indirectly underwriting the Egypt-Israeli agreement. There is a marked lack of enthusiasm in European capitals for suggestions that the EEC should contribute to a Marshall Plan type of financial support with the U.S. for Egypt and Israel after the signing of a peace treaty."

France and Germany are particularly insistent, the *Guardian* man writes, that an independent European line on the Middle East crisis is long overdue. The visits to Europe this week of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Fahd and Syria's Foreign Minister Abdul-Halim Khaddam should be seen in this light.

The Euro-Arab dialogue -- one of the most important examples of the kind of role Europe can play -- has its next session in Paris in June. That would be as good a time as any to seek out a new, common approach aimed at defusing the time-bomb which the Washington treaty will implant in the Middle East.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

UNDER THE HEADING "The Sacrifices Required", AL RA'I newspaper Friday calls on the Jordanian people to stand firmly behind their leader His Majesty King Hussein in rejecting the "arm-twisting" policy exercised by Washington against us,

Jordanians everywhere should translate their support for their leader not into demonstrations, speeches and cables, but through exhibiting their unity and cohesion and through a willingness to offer whatever sacrifices are needed, the paper writes.

The King's statements published by American press announcing refusal to succumb to Washington's policy was welcomed by people in Jordan as well as those in the occupied Arab territories, because the King was expressing Jordan's stand and defending the rights of Arabs everywhere, the paper says.

Under the heading "March 26, 1979" AL DUSTOUR newspaper says "we are not surprised at the big fanfare and intense preparations for mass media coverage under way in Washington for the signing on Monday, March 26 of the separate Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty."

The occasion is certainly "unusual" and we can understand its significance for President Carter, since this gathering will be a unique opportunity for him, serving as a platform from which to rally Jewish votes for his re-election, the paper writes.

But, it adds: "The big event will definitely not open the door for peace in our region. It will only serve as a 'barter trade' at the expense of the Arab nation."

No one can ever forget Carter's first speech after his election in which he spoke about the rights of the Palestinians... something which "cooled down" gradually later on and was replaced by "the separate treaty" and the so-called "self-rule" for the Palestinians, the paper says. The 26th of March, the day for signing the treaty, should not draw an emotional response on the part of the Arab nation, since emotions are no more considered a weapon with which to face grave events, the paper adds.

GOOD news to the public on the occasion of the grand opening.

### Arabelle

restaurant and coffee shop.

*Delicious food...pleasant surroundings.*

Royal Scientific Society street,  
next to 'UNIVERSITY FURNITURE'.

## RSS solar projects purify water, heat and cool houses

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of four articles being published this month exploring the applications of solar energy in Jordan.

By Rami G. Khouri  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 23--Aqaba and Jbeihia are not the kind of places that come to mind when one thinks of 20th century technological breakthroughs in harnessing the immense power of the sun, but they may have to be added to the global roster of solar energy research centres in view of several pioneering projects now being carried out there by the Royal Scientific Society.

As the RSS campus in Jbeihia, and at its experimental station for solar energy-powered desalination to sea water in Aqaba, the solar energy unit of the RSS is starting to get into gear in its research programme, which includes three main projects. These are the solar-powered desalination unit at Aqaba, solar water heaters for home use, and (the latest programme) investigation of the use of solar energy for both home heating and cooling.

The RSS's home water heating research is its oldest programme in solar power applications, but it will be discussed in the last article in this series, which will look into commercial applications of solar home heating and hot water provision along with the RSS's work in this area.

Most dramatic of the RSS programmes is the desalination work being done at Aqaba. After a year

of testing an experimental station, the engineers at Aqaba have just moved into phase two of the research. This involves converting the desalination system into a two-stage process by the addition of a second condensation unit that has improved output of fresh water by over 50 per cent, according to RSS solar energy programme director Mohammad Qashou.

The technology being tested at Aqaba is the work of the West German company Dornier System, with whom the RSS is running the Aqaba experimental station as a joint venture.

The Aqaba programme is the first of its kind in the world to apply the principle of the heat pipe to desalination of water by using solar energy. The two-year experimental phase at Aqaba is designed to test and refine the equipment under severe operating conditions, such as using salty seawater. If the system works well under these conditions, Mr. Qashou told the Jordan Times, it will certainly work equally well in less trying conditions, such as sweetening brackish water in remote desert areas.

The system works on the principle that when sea water is heated sufficiently by passing through "heat pipes", that are heated to high temperatures by the sun, it will vapourise and then condense on a cooler surface to leave sweet, drinkable water. The RSS engineers at Aqaba and at the RSS's Jbeihia headquarters are constantly testing different kinds of materials that will provide optimum results. The condensers now being used are made of mixture of copper, nickel and chrome.

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JORDAN TIMES

# Jordanians have their sight restored through first eye bank

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Jordan Times

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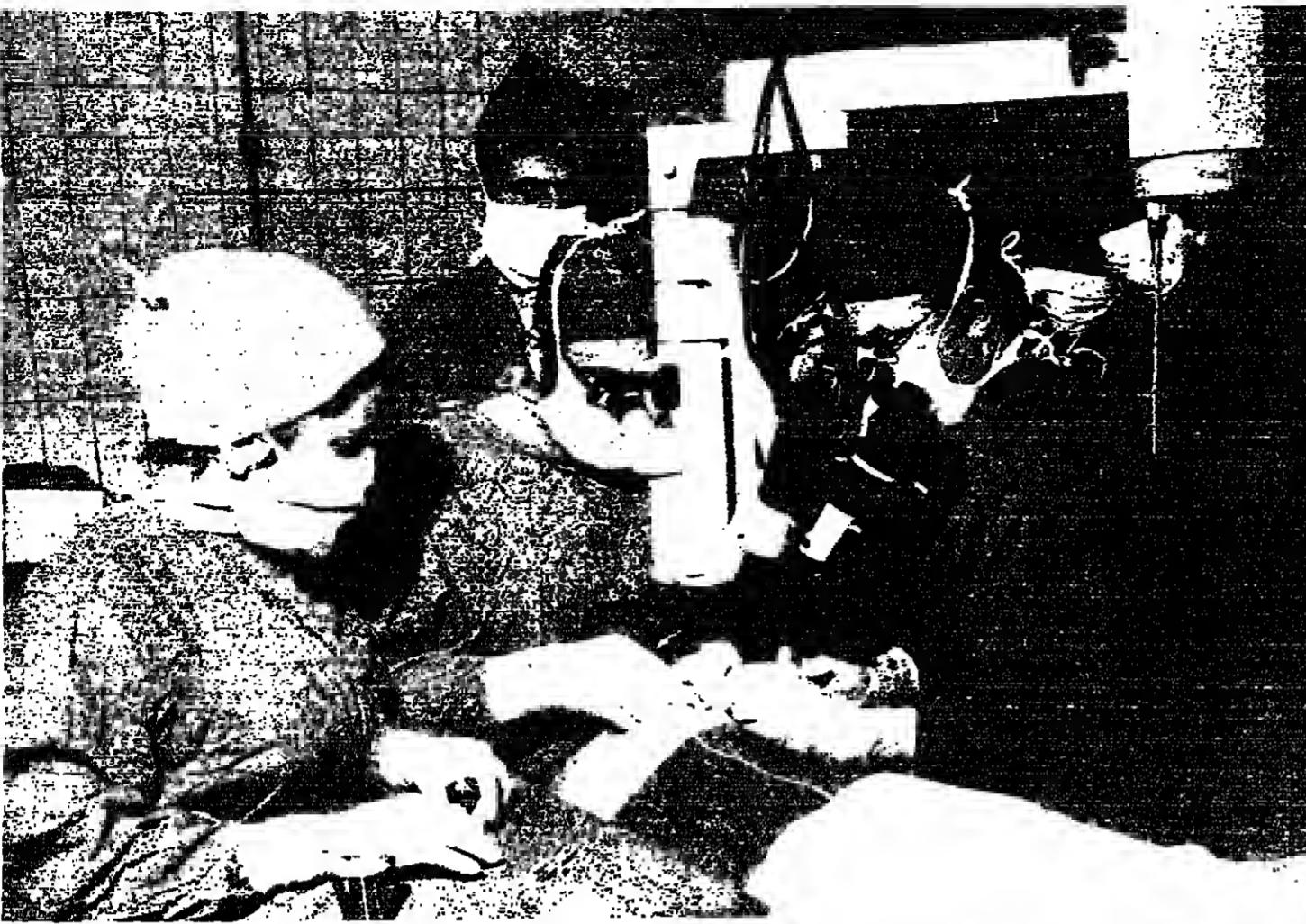
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neal graft.



Dr. Fuad Sayegh (left) and Dr. Richard Forster (right) perform corneal graft surgery under the microscope at the Jordan University Hospital.

When did the idea of setting up an eye bank arise? What were the steps taken?

"Well, the idea first arose over 22 years ago," Dr. Sayegh said.

"But it was only in 1965 that it was activated by the Ministry of Health when a four-member committee was formed representing the Jordan University Hospital, the King Hussein Medical Centre, the Ministry of Health and the private sector. These four members worked out the pre-requirements and formulated recommendations for setting up an eye bank. A new law was passed.

Then, with the cooperation of the International Eye Foundation (IEF), a programme for the Jordan Eye Bank was set up. The first step was finally taken in November last year when a Jordanian team was sent to the United States to study the example of US eye banks and to observe tissue technology.

"The second step was to open the JEB officially. This took place on March 10 this year. Present at the ceremony were a surgical team from the United States: Dr. Richard Forster from Bascom Palmer in Miami and Dr. Michael Lemp from the Georgetown University Hospital, the Administrative Director of the IEF, Mr. Joseph Deering, and ophthalmic and eye bank technicians Miss Victoria Sheffels and Miss Nicole Todaro. Also present were two ophthalmic surgeons from Syria: Dr. Sa'id, who is working part-time at the Ministry of Health

Hospital in Damascus and part-time private practitioner, and Dr. Samman from the Damascus University Hospital.

Miss Todaro, a young lady who looks and sounds American but who turned out to be French, spoke to the Jordan Times about the reason for their presence and the activities of the IEF.

"We are here to help start the Jordan Eye Bank. Vicki and I came one week before the doctors to set up the operating theatres, to show the nurses how to scrub, and so on. The doctors are here to supervise the local doctors in their first corneal graft surgeries. They started operating right away and have already performed 38 operations--at the Jordan University Hospital and the King Hussein Medical Centre."

When asked about the facilities she found here, Nicole said: "I found extremely good facilities in Jordan, in both hospitals (JUH and KHMC); they are very well equipped. The staff is very cooperative and knowledgeable. Their attitude is really positive."

Victoria, who took a break in the middle of a corneal graft surgery to talk with the Jordan Times, said: "You can tell about the nurses both here and in the KHMC; they are really sharp and smart. They learned so fast. As you see, I can leave the theatre and they carry on quite well. When we leave, I am sure they'll be able to handle every thing efficiently."

The IEF team left last Sunday,

leaving only N. to train eye bank technicians. He was trained at Georgetown University Hospital as an ophthalmic technician.

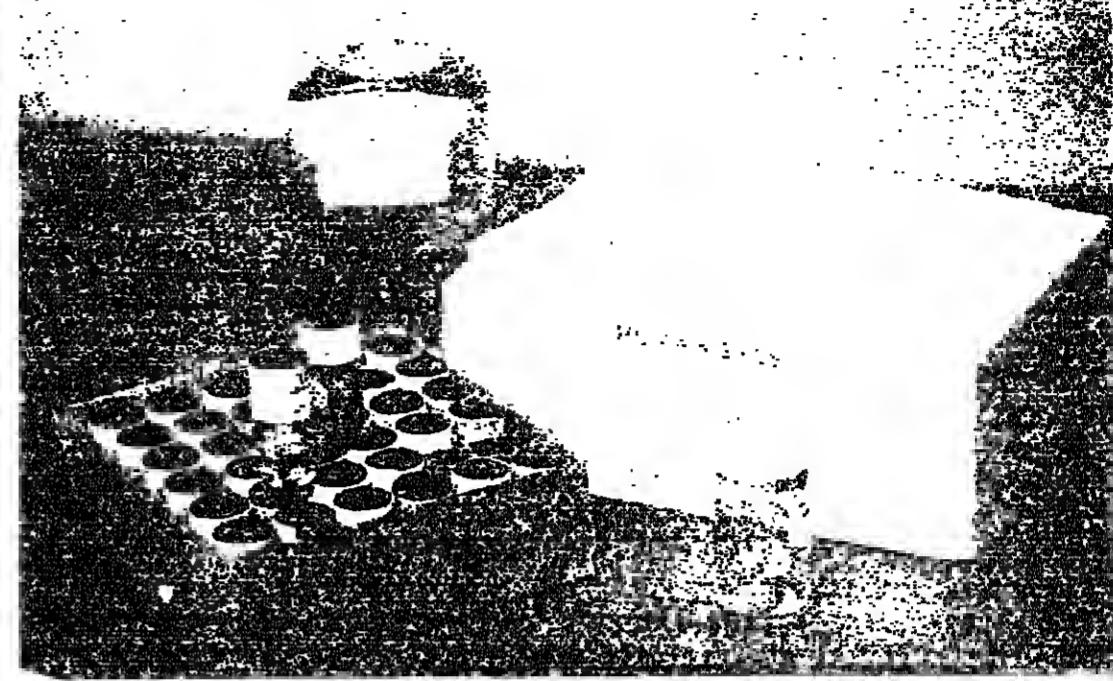
She does almost everything from eye screening through teaching up to working in a theatre. She is the assistant director of the paramedical training programme of the IEF.

"I am going to stay two or three more weeks," long-haired Nicole went on warmly, "to train eye bank technicians to collect, store and preserve the eyes or the corneas prior to transplantation."

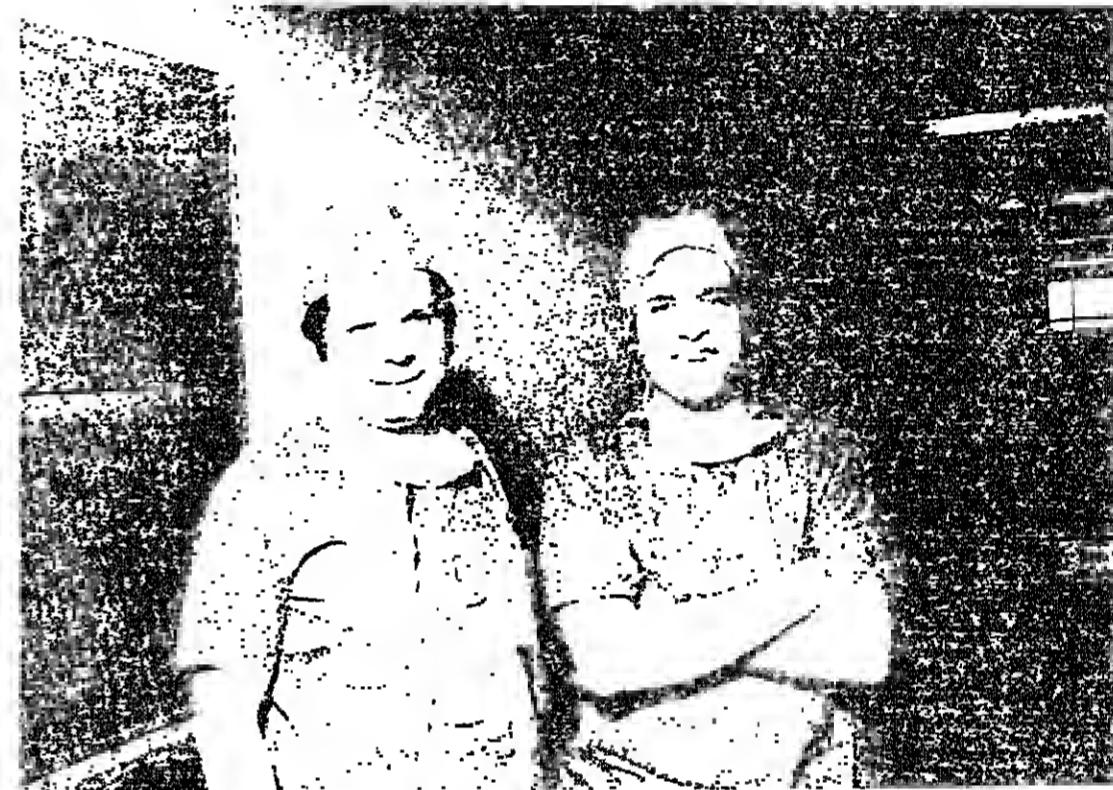
She also explained to the Jordan Times the nature and function of the IEF. "The IEF is a private voluntary organisation headquartered in Washington D.C. Its director, John Henry King, was unfortunately unable to join the team and come to Jordan due to health reasons.

"The organisation is geared to do different things: train paramedical personnel and develop eye care networks, especially in developing countries. One major programme under way at the time being is in Kenya. It involves training ophthalmic assistants, or ophthalmic medical officers as they are called. These would replace ophthalmologists in very remote areas of the country since specialists are very few. The goal is for the trainees to be able to diagnose and cure the simpler eye diseases and refer the others to ophthalmologists. In other words, to have different levels of medical eye care."

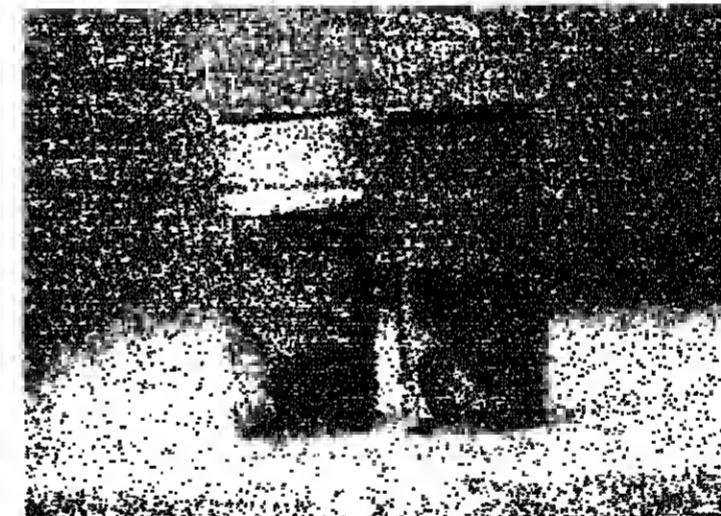
Here in Jordan, the IEF has provided two sets of instruments and preliminary eye bank material to the JEB as well as Nicole's services. In the future, it is hoped that the IEF will be able to expand its activities to training paramedical



An empty container is awaiting a freshly enucleated eye (right) beside a box of preserved corneas (left) and a bottle of glycerine.



Dr. Sa'id (left) and Dr. Samman (right) came from Syria to watch the events. Although there is no eye bank in Syria, corneal graft surgery is performed using foreign tissues.



Preserved human corneas with a scleral ring around them recently shipped from the United States.

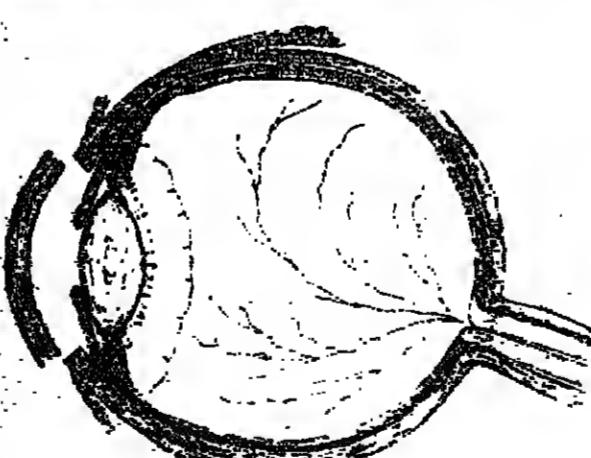


Miss Victoria Sheffels works with an instrument set donated by the IEF to the Jordan Eye Bank.



Eye Foundation is providing the first corneas needed to start off the Jordan Eye Bank.

## CROSS SECTION DRAWING OF AN EYE INDICATING COMPARATIVE SIZE AND SHAPE OF THE CORNEA (SUPERIMPOSED)



### Surgical Methods of Cutting Cornea for Transplant Purposes:

COMPARATIVE VIEW  
OF PARTIAL  
PENETRATION AND  
REPLACEMENT OF  
A PORTION OF THE  
CORNEA TISSUE  
FROM DONOR EYE

COMPARATIVE VIEW  
OF FULL THICKNESS  
PENETRATION AND  
REPLACEMENT OF  
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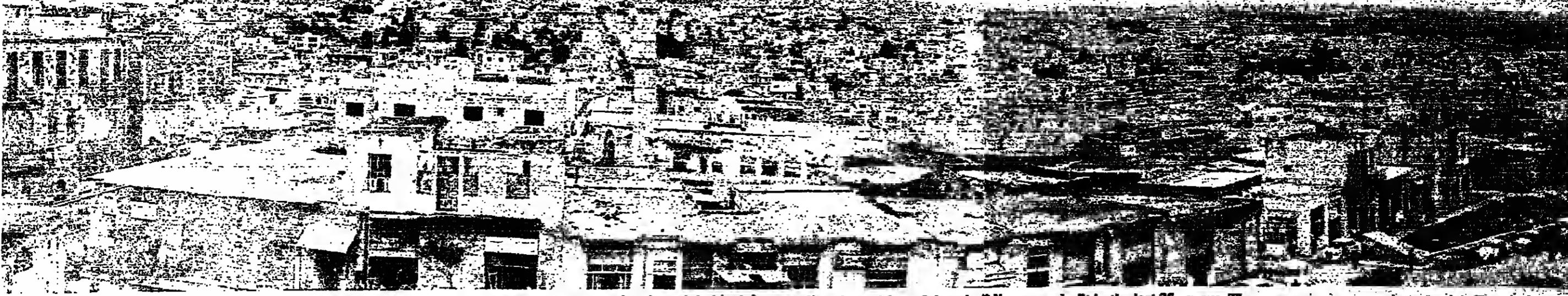
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A view of Irbid from the roof of the municipal building. Surrounded by fertile lands, the area has been inhabited from earliest times. Most of these buildings were built in the last 25 years. The mosque in the centre is Al Jamiah Sharqi, the East

## Irbid: Jordan's second city mixes problems with hope

Text and photos  
by Marianne Pearson  
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID—Is Irbid Jordan's second city—or is it number three?

Dr. Sufyan Tell of the Irbid Urban Regional Planning Group favours the former interpretation of statistics. "Zarga," he said, "is not a distinctive city." Irbid, as the capital of Jordan's largest governorate with 30 per cent of the country's agricultural land, is distinctive. Its history stretches back to the Bronze Age.

Its name probably comes from the one it had in Roman times—Arbela. It wasn't one of the original Decapolis cities, but was a latecomer to that ancient league. In modern times, under Ottoman rule, caravanserai was built on its tell and the population is estimated to have been about 800. Population has been increasing in geometric proportions ever since. Before 1948 it was a busy trade route that ran from Baghdad to Haifa.

In 1967 Irbid suffered devastation and a large death toll under rocket fire from the Golan Heights. Its population was then about 65,000, although it is ill-equipped to do so, it has been receiving the dispossessed of the West Bank until today. Villagers of the area, looking for new opportunities, are also drawn to it. The population today is over 140,000.

"The use of basalt as a building stone certainly adds no touch of beauty to the scene," wrote Gerald Lankaster Harding in *Antiquities of Jordan*. Today, these older buildings no longer exist and limestone is dominant. Dr. Tell, a native of Irbid, says he remembers buildings as being "mixed" when he was a child. He would like to incorporate some basalt trim in the house he is building in Irbid.

Irbid has three major problems today: water, housing, and money—lack of all of them.

A good city water supply Dr. Tell said, would provide 200 litres of water daily to each inhabitant: Irbid's is 17 litres. The city receives 4,000 or 5,000 cubic metres of water a day from sources in Azraq, Smeihah, and Eddeil. Sources closer to the city deliver approximately 1,000 additional cubic metres a day. Water is rationed: each section of the city receives water only twice a week. The Maqarin Dam, it is hoped, will help to solve the problem, and in the meantime new artesian wells are being drilled to ease the situation.

City planning is easier on paper than in practice in Irbid. Land is expensive and builders tend to disregard city ordinances requiring space to be left around new buildings. The shortage of housing is critical. In addition to its large Palestinian population and newcomers from the rural areas, the city's natural growth rate is high. University of Yarmouk personnel needed a new 100-unit housing development originally intended for townpeople. The large staff required for the building of the Maqarin Dam will need housing that has yet to be prepared.

Dr. Tell believes people from Irbid will be forced to move to Amman if more housing is not available to them. The city needs housing projects commensurate with its growth.

Japan International Cooperative Agency, at the request of the government of Jordan, has drawn up a comprehensive plan for northern Jordan. Its regional planners have suggested numerous improvements to Irbid, including improvement of traffic patterns, recreational facilities, water supply and the industrial estate. Its plans are to be implemented during 1981-85 at a cost of JD 247

million—which brings us back to problem number three.

After considering Irbid's problems, Dr. Tell brightened and said

"The potential in the north for tourism is great—particularly for tourists interested in archaeology and ancient times. They can stay in Irbid for a week and every day take trips to see new things. For example, Beit Ras, which is old Capitolas. It has an underground channel going all around the city which is so big cars can drive in it. Um Qais is another old city

nearby. Its name was Gadara and the poet Meleager was born there. Perhaps it was like Jerash, perhaps better—it had a university.

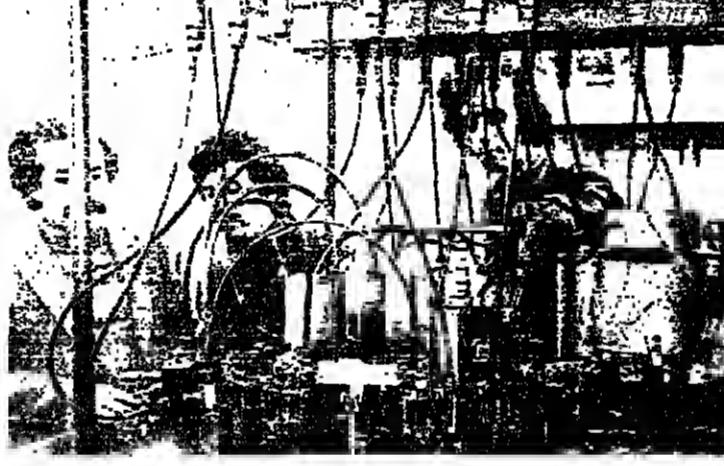
"The hot springs at Hammam near the Yarmouk River have a temperature of 45 degrees centigrade. This is a good recreation area. Yesterday I discovered, myself, north of Irbid a large network of underground channels—people in Roman times got water there. There are many things like this. If we have the capital to restore them, we will be one of the most important areas in the world for tourists."

In the mayor's office are samples of new street signs. A committee from the city has chosen 500 national and historical names for Irbid streets. Major streets will have signs in English also. After the signs with names are installed, the next step will be the numbering of streets and houses.



Mr. Hikmat Ta'ani, curator of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' Irbid museum, holds a bowl from the Bronze Age. Artifacts in the museum from archaeological sites in Irbid district date from the Neolithic Age to the Islamic period. Mr. Ta'ani, who has a staff of seven assistants, has recently worked on the excavations at Pella.

On Dahr Al-Tell ("ceiling of the hill") are a mosque, a church, a complex of schools, the police headquarters and the old jail. On its northern slope part of the basalt stone wall which surrounded the Bronze Age city can be seen. The highest point in Irbid, the tell covers numerous other settlements dating back to 2500 B.C.



An automated ball-point pen factory is already in operation in Irbid's new industrial area.



Irbid was the first city in Jordan to establish a public library. The librarian, Mr. Anwar Ishaq, is preparing an exhibition of children's books for the International Year of the Child. A new children's library is under construction at a playground in the city, and a new central library for the people of Irbid will be built on land near the temporary Yarmouk University site.



The mayor of Irbid, Mr. Hassan Mousavi, sits before a map of the city in his office. drawn three years ago, new areas have developed beyond its borders.



At the Central Market, on the western edge of Irbid, produce from the Jordan Valley for distribution to retail merchants. Activity is greatest early in the morning. It has by noon, when this picture was taken.



A farmer brings his tractor to Irbid's industrial area on the northeastern edge of the city. Most of the city's garages are now concentrated there. Metalworking shops, caravans and factories will also be moved there. Over 100 shops have already been built and over 300 when the industrial area is completed.

# Damas-Scene

Compiled for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

(Week of March 24-30)

**S. COLUMN** marks the first anniversary of the *Damas-Scene*. It is hoped that readers will contribute to the long-awaited round-up of cultural and civic events by sending parties, benefits, exhibitions, concerts and lectures to Pat McDonnell, P.O.B. 5601, Damascus, Syria.

## EXHIBITS

**DAY**, March 24: Thirty-one graphics of Aleppo artist who go on display for six days in the Arab Cultural Centre. A 6 p.m. reception opens the one-man show. Mr. Taha is a 1978 graduate of the Fine Arts Academy of Damascus University. Hours: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. daily.

**DAY**, March 24: More than 70 artists of Syria and Iraq represented in a mixed media exhibition at Al Shab'a Cultural Centre. A 6 p.m. reception opens the 10-day show. Hours: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; 4:30 - 8 p.m. daily except Friday.

**DAY**, March 26: Large colour photographs of 47 priceless manuscripts from Spain's Royal Library of Escorial will go on display in the Exhibition Hall of the Damascus National Museum. A 6 p.m. reception will open the event under sponsorship of the Syrian Ministry of Culture and the Spanish Embassy.

Spanish Ambassador to Syria, Felix Fernandez-Shaw, will offer insight to Arab scholarship in Spain during the 15th centuries. Obviously, these documents reflect the influence of Arab civilisation upon Spain. Since these objects are unable to be removed from Escorial, we are doing the next best by bringing colour photographs of them to the Arab

ambassador Fernandez-Shaw further explained that Escorial has some 50 kilometres from Madrid. King Philip II founded a royal monastery and library at Escorial which also is a site of Spanish royalty. Arabic documents at Escorial include grammar, poetry, philology and literature, philosophy, physics, history, politics, medicine, natural sciences, mathematics and theology.

Particular interest to Damascenes will be No. 43 in the collection, a 61-page treatise describing the Syrians, written by Ahmad Ibrahim al-Dimaski in 1327 A.D. Another object of interest is an illustrated Koran written in the Maghrib script of the Persian type in 1106 A.D. Hours: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.; 2 - 4 p.m. except Tuesdays.

**ESTDAY**, March 28, and **THURSDAY**, March 29: A 3 M exhibition featuring microfiche systems, telephone machines, and visual products will be open to the public from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. both days in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton

## CONCERTS

**ESTDAY**, March 28: West German musicians Detlev Grevensmehl, violinist, and Ulrich Meckies, pianist, will perform at 8 p.m. in the concert hall of the Damascus National Museum. They will perform the works of Handel, Stravinsky, Mozart and Beethoven.

**ESTDAY**, March 29: Russian music teachers who are instructing students in Aleppo will perform a guest concert at 7 p.m. in the Music School of the Soviet Cultural Centre.

## LECTURES

**AY**, March 26: Tishrin journalist Ali Abdul Karim will speak on "Arabic Poetry" at 6 p.m. in the Arab Cultural Centre (in Arabic).

**Y**, March 27: "The Historical Development of Urban Life" is the title of a lecture to be given by Dr. Ulrich Schafitz at 5 p.m. in the Faculty of Engineering, Damascus University. Prof. Schafitz has worked as the adviser for town and city planning and as a consultant in North African countries and the Geotrop Institute (in English).

**AY**, March 27: "Searching for the Content of Music" is the title of a music conference to be led by Mohammad Hananou, director at the Damascus Institute of Music, at 6:30 p.m. in the Arab Cultural Centre (in Arabic).

**ESTDAY**, March 28: "The Urban-Phenomenon of Squatter Settlements and Their Integration into Town Planning" will be the title of a lecture by Dr. Ulrich Schafitz at 5 p.m. in the Faculty of Engineering, Damascus University (in English).

## THEATRE

**RDAY**, March 24: The National Theatre of Syria will perform a re-run of "The King is King" nightly at 8:30 p.m. in Al Thawra Theatre. Zinat Kousnia is cast in the leading role of the King based on "The Prince and the Pauper". The performances in honour of International Theatre Day, March 27 (in Arabic).

**VIDEO-TAPED PROGRAMME**

**ESTDAY**, March 28: "Les Musiques de Marcel Proust" will be presented at 6:30 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre (in French).

**AY**, March 30: A documentary entitled "Temoignages et Images d'Aragon," is slated for 6:30 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre (in French).

## DANCE RECITAL

**ESTDAY**, March 28: "An Evening of Indian Classical Dance" will be presented at 8:30 p.m. in the New Officers Club of the Meridian Hotel to benefit the SOS Orphanage at Qods. The programme is being produced by Mme. Shrimati Usha Venkateswaran, wife of India's Ambassador to Syria. Although the ambassador's wife looks as if she's in her 20s, she is a 48-year-old daughter, Kalpana, who with her mother will perform the six dances on the programme. Mme. Venkateswaran began the study of classical Indian dancing at the age of 6 and she holds a diploma in choreography from the All India Institute of Theatrical Arts in Moscow. Although she has dance concerts in India, this will be her first full-length solo action in Syria.

"Classical Indian dancing should not be regarded as folk dancing or acrobatics," she said, "it involves everything from invocations to the deities to re-enactments of life's sorrows and joys, separations, weddings, or mourning for a lost one, a tape to introduce the audience to the intricacies of Indian dancing with a demonstration of the basic movements, postures, gestures and facial expressions."

The wedding ceremony will be enacted replicating Hindu nuptials, bridal preparations and the arrival of the bridegroom to the priest. Another selection will be the Kathak, a popular dance of the Moghul period.

Mme. Venkateswaran previously participated in an international programme at the Azzam Palace last April which presented dances of France, Indonesia, Argentina, Russia and India. She also is a painter, has her own kiln, and turns out extremely fetching ceramic floral arrangements that are contemporary in theme.

Her benefit performance is Mme. Venkateswaran's personal contribution to the Year of the Child and all proceeds will go to SOS orphanage, under construction eight kilometres west of Damascus.



West German violinist Detlev Grevensmehl will perform in concert with pianist Ulrich Meckies at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Damascus National Museum and at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Aleppo National Library.



Detlev Grevensmehl and Ulrich Meckies will perform at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Damascus National Museum and at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Aleppo National Library.

An example of the photos of Arabic manuscripts from the Royal Library of Escorial, Spain, which goes on view Monday in the National Museum of Damascus. This is one of 47 miniatures painted by a 16th century Moor depicting the amusement of women in the harem of Caliph Ali Ben Abi'l El-Tamimi. The miniatures were painted long after the text was written by Mohammad Ali Zafar who died in 1169 A.D.

## ELSEWHERE IN SYRIA

**ESTDAY**, March 29: West German musicians Detlev Grevensmehl, violinist, and Ulrich Meckies, pianist, will perform the works of Handel, Stravinsky, Mozart and Schubert at 8 p.m. in the National Library of Aleppo.

## FILMS

**SATURDAY**, March 24, and **MONDAY**, March 26: The film, "La Meilleure Facon de Marcher," directed by Claude Miller starring Patrick Dewaere, Patrick Bouchitey and Christine Pascal, will be shown at 7:30 p.m. in the French Cultural Centre (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

**SUNDAY**, March 25: "Tecumseh," a western adventure film, will be shown at 6:30 p.m. in the German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre (in German, Arabic sub-titles).

**MONDAY**, March 26: A film honoring International Day of Theatre will be shown in the Soviet Cultural Centre, under the title, "A Mythological Story of Kafkabac" (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

**WEDNESDAY**, March 28: "Hatred" is the title of a film to be shown at 6 p.m. in the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian, Arabic sub-titles).

**THURSDAY**, March 29: The American Women's Club will sponsor a fund-raising showing of "A Man for All Seasons" at 8 p.m. in the Damascus Community School. Please phone the school for confirmation of the showing.

**THURSDAY**, March 29: The French Cultural Centre will launch a festival of films by the late Jean Renoir beginning with Renoir's 1931 classic, "La Chienne," starring Michel Simon and Jane Mareze, at 7:30 p.m. (in French, Arabic sub-titles).

**FRIDAY**, March 30: "Trimbelta" is the title of a film to be shown at 6 p.m. in the Soviet Cultural Centre (in Russian only).

## PAT-POURRI

Most diplomatic gatherings have an international flair to them, but the Mezze home of West German Defence Attaché Jaeger von Phueskow and his wife, Ann, was a veritable mini-United Nations on Friday when they showed two German TV documentaries about Syria.

At the last minute, the host had to leave on business to Jeddah, but the hostess, who resembles Swedish actress Liv Ullmann, ably entertained with the assistance of her daughter Emily. Manning the film projector in the absence of the host was Siegfried Glessner.

The films, which were made under the patronage of the Syrian Department of Antiquities, were top notch and it's a shame the narration isn't dubbed in English for consumption in the United States. Both were directed by German art historian Irene Zander.

"Damascus, Impression of a City," depicts old homes within the walls of the old city, the handicrafts, festivals and life styles of Damascenes which probably will disappear within a decade. The

## W. Germany signs railway aid agreement with Jordan

FRANKFURT, March 23. (R) - West Germany and Jordan today signed an agreement on the maintenance and upgrading of the Aqaba Railway Corporation linking the phosphate mines at Al Hasa with the port of Aqaba.

The German government-owned development aid society for technical cooperation (GTZ) said the contract was signed during a visit of Jordan's Transport Minister Ali Suhaime to West Germany.

Under it, the GTZ will send six railway experts to Jordan for 15 months to instruct the local railway company on questions of maintenance of the railway line. The contract is worth 1.5 million marks (\$790,000).

The line, completed in 1972, was originally built with West German aid money at a cost of 150 million marks and the project is the largest W. German aid venture in Jordan. The six experts to go to Jordan under the agreement will help the four already working on the railway to ready the line for the addition of 210 new wagons later this year.

The GTZ and Jordan began to cooperate on the project four years ago. Phosphate exports account for 30 percent of Jordan's export earnings.

Mr. Suhaime is scheduled to meet West German Transport Minister Kurt Gschidde in Bonn next Monday.

## Gen. Ibn Shaker returns from France

AMMAN, March 23 (JNA) - Commander in Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker returned here today at the end of an official two-week visit to France.

Gen. Ibn Shaker who was accompanied by a military delegation held talks with the French Defence Minister Yvon Bourges and other officials, and toured military installations and arms factories.

## TODAY'S

## WEATHER

The weather will be partly cloudy in general with a chance of local rain in the east part of the country. There will be a decrease in temperatures and winds will become westerly moderate. In Aqaba it will be partly cloudy and dusty and winds will be northerly moderate to fresh with calm seas.

|               | Overnight | Daytime |
|---------------|-----------|---------|
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| Deserts       | 13        | 21      |
| Jordan Valley | 16        | 27      |

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# JORDAN TIMES SPORTS ROUNDUP

**Holmes favoured over Ocasio for WBC title**  
LAS VEGAS, Nevada, March 23. (R) -- When Osvaldo Ocasio steps into the ring tonight to fight Larry Holmes for the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight title most people see his role as that of a sacrificial lamb. Holmes wanted to make money without incurring undue risk, and Ocasio was selected as a proper foil, many boxing pundits say. But Ocasio, 23 and winner of all 13 of his professional fights, doesn't see it that way. "I'm going to knock out Larry Holmes, the Puerto Rican challenger repeats in broken English. It's nothing new to me to be an underdog. I've been one for almost all my fights."

He got the chance to fight Holmes on the strength of two points victories over Jimmy Young, once a highly-ranked heavyweight. His first 11 bouts were all against nondescript opponents, and he stopped all but one of them. Promoter Don King, who is staging the match at the Hilton Hotel Sports Pavilion, is paying purses of \$1.2 million to Holmes and \$250,000 to Ocasio. Holmes lost several fights as an amateur, but his professional record is perfect. "I'm 29 years old with 29 wins and 20 knockouts," he said. "I was impressed with Ocasio against Young. He's a hungry young fighter who will give it everything he has. I have to be ready." Another bout on the programme, a 12-round heavyweight elimination between the number one and two WBC contenders, Ken Norton and Earle Shavers, has created more interest than the title fight. The winner has been promised a shot at the WBC crown, probably in September. No heavyweight hits harder than Shavers when he can land on target and Norton, the man Holmes defeated as WBC champion, is a boxer of proven class. They also are being well paid -- \$750,000 for Norton and \$250,000 for Shavers. The 15-round Holmes-Ocasio match is set to begin sometime between 9:15 p.m. and 10 p.m. EST (0215 and 0300 GMT Saturday), depending on the duration of the Norton-Shavers fight.

**Belgian optimistic about world cross-country title**

LIMERICK, Republic of Ireland, March 23 (R) -- Belgian runner Leon Schots chases his second triumph in eight days when he tackles the world cross-country championships here on Sunday. Schots, a gritty 26-year-old soldier who thrives in the mud and chills of cross-country running, retained his world military title last Saturday in Cork, only an hour's drive from Limerick. But that victory was, he believes, only a stepping stone on his way to regaining the world championship he won in Duesseldorf, West Germany, two years ago. "I don't believe there will be anyone here who can stop me winning the title," he said this week after a leisurely inspection of the horse-shoe-shaped course at Limerick's Greenvale horse racing track. The hard-running Belgians could also start favourites to regain the men's senior team title in a 12-kilometre race. The overall entry for the men's, women's and junior events is about 450 competitors, with many countries eager to take advantage of the new rule which allows individual as well as team entries.

Though Schots will start favourite for the men's title he will need to keep a wary eye on at least half a dozen rivals, including

Irishman John Treacy, who will be particularly keen to succeed on his home ground after last year's surprise win in Scotland. A powerful squad from the Soviet Union will include last year's runner-up Alexander Antipov and European Marathon champion Leonid Moseyev, and Coach Yuri Tyurin fancies his team's chances. West Germany, who like the Russians will be chasing hard for their first victory, will be spearheaded by Olympic 5,000 metres bronze medallist Klaus-Peter Hildenbrand, now recovered from an Achilles tendon operation. But if the race is to go to a non-European for only the fourth time in 76 years the best bet could be American Craig Virgin, who is also optimistic about the United States' chances of grabbing the team title they narrowly missed last year. The Greenvale course looks comparatively tame, with few obvious hazards, though a series of deceptive inclines could take their toll in the later stages. Weather conditions are bright and cold, with light snow possible at the weekend.

**Malmo and Austria Wien draw in European Soccer Cup semifinals**

ZURICH, Switzerland, March 23 (R) -- Swedish part-timers Malmo, this season's shock team of Europe, were today drawn against Austria Wien in the semifinals of the European Soccer Cup. In the other semifinal games, West German champions Cologne will meet England's Nottingham Forest in what promises to be a thrilling and hard-fought clash next month. Malmo became the first Swedish club to reach the last four of Europe's leading club competition when they crushed Poland's Wisla Krakow 4-1 at home last Wednesday for a 5-3 aggregate win. Few critics expected Malmo to get past their first round opponents, Monaco of France, but they swept to victory and then disposed of Soviet champions Dinamo Kiev to reach the quarter-finals.

Austria Wien, last season's beaten finalists in the European Cup-Winners' Cup, had a nasty shock in the first round, losing their opening match against Vllaznji Shkodra of Albania. The Albanians were making a rare trip into Europe, and almost caused a major upset, but Wien recovered in front of their Austrian fans. England's Nottingham Forest, in their bid for the trophy, knocked out the holders Liverpool in round one, Liverpool's top team for many years, had captured the European Cup in 1977 and successfully defended it the following year. It was a flying start for Forest and they surged on to defeat Athens of Greece and Switzerland's grasshoppers Zurich. The winners of their clash with Cologne will almost certainly start favourites to triumph in the final at Munich on May 30. Cologne beat Scotland's Glasgow Rangers 2-1 in the quarter-finals, both goals coming from international striker Dieter Mueller.

Tracy Austin upsets Chris Evert

NEW YORK, March 23 (R) -- Sixteen-year-old Tracy Austin, winning 12 of the last 13 games, upset second-seeded Chris Evert 6-3, 6-1 to advance to the semi-finals of the \$275,000 women's championship tennis tournament.

## Britain's greatest conductor was also a wit and raconteur

By Denham Ford

Sir Thomas Beecham was once described by critic Neville Cardus as a complex character. Falstaff, Puck and Malvolio all mixed up, each likely to overwhelm the others: witty, then wagging, supercilious, then genial, kindly, and sometimes cruel; an artist in effacement, yet somehow always himself, Lancashire in his bones, yet a man of the world.

And he was, indeed, a man of infinite variety: a great conductor, impresario, wit, raconteur, bon viveur, widely read and immensely civilised.

Unique among musicians in never having studied at a recognised academy or conservatoire, his conducting was best summed up by the American critic, Olin Downes, who wrote:

"He is a conductor of several definitions: not in the customary sense of the leader of an orchestra, but of a man whose music pours through as electricity pours over a wire. He is made of magic that man, wherefore, when happily conducting, he communicates enthusiasm and joy."

This last element was perhaps the keynote to Beecham's music-making, for he communicated enjoyment to players and audiences alike.

Having made his professional orchestral debut in 1899, by 1910 he was embarking on his first London opera season. This consisted of eight works in widely different styles and introduced to England the operas of Richard Strauss. In 1914 he created a sensation by bringing to England for the first time the Russian opera and ballet with the great Chaliapin.

Beecham was for many years artistic director of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where he produced more than 100 operas and lost three -- fortunes not always his own money!

He also conducted opera in many countries, notably at the Metropolitan in New York and --

at the age of 79 -- a memorable season at the Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires. This was to celebrate the theatre's 50th anniversary. He was described as "a man made to measure to refute the traditional portrait of an Englishman... one of Chaucerian exuberance."

Regarded in Britain as the country's greatest conductor and impresario, Beecham was equally highly regarded in other countries. As Olin Downes wrote in 1936: "Last night in Carnegie Hall an audience listened to a man who is in the second place a conductor and in the first a true musician -- Sir Thomas Beecham... He conducted without so much as a thought for standards or conventions of stick waving, and he won a sweeping triumph, and astonished and delighted his audience."

Orchestral players throughout the world came to love and respect him, even if some orchestras found his method unorthodox. In England he formed four major orchestras and appeared with many others. He made his American debut in 1928 with the New York Philharmonic, directing a concert which also marked the American debut of Vladimir Horowitz.

He conducted the major American orchestras, as well as those of Amsterdam, Berlin, Paris, Stockholm and Vienna, and orchestras in Australia, South Africa, South America and Switzerland.

Throughout his life he cham-



**Sir Thomas Beecham**  
Musicians' wrote of him "...the most important is he has been the return to his land of Sir Thomas Beecham this has not been simple, it's back of an acknowledged master. Beecham brought not only the perfection directing we have had his full measure in the past, but something new -- something invigorating that made in London took on in the last couple of years."

Beecham was a pioneer in many fields. While on a tour of Germany in 1936 he conducted his own London Philharmonic Orchestra in the first magnetic tape recording, copies of which still exist. His recording career in fact began in 1910 and continued until shortly before his death.

In 1950, at the age of 71, he took his Royal Philharmonic Orchestra -- which he founded in 1946 -- on an extended tour of the United States, the first British orchestra to visit America since 1912, and astonished audiences particularly with his rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

He was as famous for his wit as for his conducting. Beecham stories abound, both true and apocryphal -- although most of them require the flavour of his own telling to do them justice. He had little regard for other conductors, apart from Wilhelm Furtwangler. He called Toscanini "an Italian handmaster". Having appeared with the New York Philharmonic when Toscanini was at the height of his powers, Beecham enquired after the first rehearsal: "Tell me, who has been conducting this orchestra lately?"

In 1959, after a lengthy period abroad, the magazine "Music and

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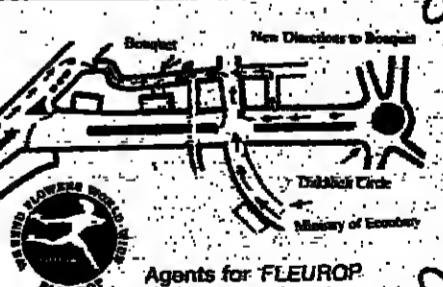
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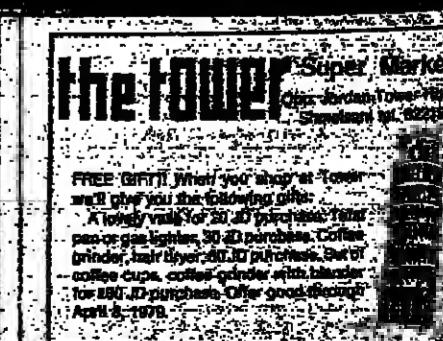


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Here you can enjoy the Mandarin Chinese cuisine. Open daily from 12:15 to 4:00 and 6:00 to midnight. For take home food orders please call 25786.

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Jabal Werden PEACE BLDG.  
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FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1979

**HOROSCOPE****CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE**

Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Look into some new outlet for you added income so that you need not be about bills. Don't argue with others.

Apr. 20 to May 18) Not a good day to confer, since there could be big arguments arising at hand and accomplish much.

May 19 to June 21) Study a new project that is in advance. Forget dull duties that yield you little to what one of character has to suggest so after happiness in the future.

CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Keep focused and do an efficient and exact job so that increase. Improve your diet if you want your better.

July 22 to Aug. 21) Be more optimistic where your concerned and cement better relations with more successful. Use a more up-to-date will improve the quality of your work.

Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Use care in driving and accidents. Handle problems at home as can. Entertain friends at home, but make early.

Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Contact those who can in a better job at your work, but don't spend hilly. Be cheerful and impress them favorably. Pay bills on time.

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) If you listen to what to suggest, you can add much to present now. Your own ideas are too advanced to use favorable impression on newcomers.

RIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Go ahead with since your thinking is clear and so is your the information you need at right sources.

a personal worry to deter your progress.

RN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Seek out an expert at you where practical affairs mean much to listen to a well-meaning friend who has little try to control your temper or you get into hig

JS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Pay attention in what has to suggest and forget that bigwig busy to help you. Follow rules that apply to

Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Stop, concentrating no affairs and get busy on the constructive, a conscientious citizen. A higher-up can be in the future but avoid a new contact.

**REN BRIDGE**S. H. GOREN  
R. SHARF  
Chicago Tribune

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# S. Africa's President Vorster speaks out against Rhoodie

CAPE TOWN, March 23 -- President John Vorster today broke his silence on the information scandal raging round the South African government with a bitter attack on the central figure Dr. Eschel Rhoodie.

He accused the former information secretary of threatening to bring down the government if former information minister Dr. Connie Mulder was forced to quit the cabinet because of the scandal.

"Last year, after I had relinquished the premiership and while Dr. Connie Mulder was still a member of the cabinet, I received a message from Dr. Eschel Rhoodie to the effect that if Dr. Mulder was compelled to abandon his position in the cabinet and the national party, he (Dr. Rhoodie) would see to it that J. the prime minister Mr. P. W. Botha and the members of the cabinet be destroyed -- he would bring the temple down on us all," Mr. Vorster said.

"At the time I paid scant attention to the theatrical message. I now have to accept, however, that his present conduct stems from this threat."

The statement by the president, who customarily does not involve himself in controversial issues, was also scathing about Dr. Mulder who resigned after the misuse of millions of rand (dollars) by the information department became known.

Central to the issue was the funding of a pro-government

newspaper, The Citizen, with public money. Dr. Rhoodie, now in hiding overseas and wanted for arrest here, has repeatedly said the whole cabinet knew of the affair. But this has been denied by the present government of Prime Minister Pietie Botha.

Mr. Vorster said he spoke to Dr. Mulder yesterday and asked "why did he allow the Prime Minister and his colleagues to live under a cloud of suspicion if he knew Dr. Rhoodie was telling an infamously lie."

"His answer to me was that he does not talk to the newspapers."

"I expressed myself very strongly and told Dr. Mulder that I did not accept his excuse."

Mr. Vorster said Dr. Rhoodie had claimed to be in possession of a document signed by Mr. Vorster which could have serious implications.

"I give him the opportunity, with my full permission, to release any such document he may have," he said.

He said that to his knowledge no member of the present cabinet was aware of any irregularities.

Meanwhile, in Washington yesterday, a U.S. senator ridiculed a report that South Africa financially backed his successful election campaign against a liberal rival last November.

Dr. Rhoodie was reported to have documents in his possession showing that South Africa was a major backer of conservative Republican Senator Roger Jepsen.

"The entire episode reminds me of the story of Alice in Wonderland. In that fairy tale, the Mad Hatter ran around telling nonsensical, confused and ridiculous stories and making bizarre statements," said the senator.

But there were signs of a split in the social democratic ranks over Dr. Sa Carneiro's decision to drop support for the Mota Pinto government. The PSD leader has been urging early general elections to solve the national crisis, and has accused the president of failing to give sufficient support to the government in its controversial programme of handing back some collectivised farmlands to private ownership.

Parties, the Socialists of former premier Mario Soares and the Centre-Right Social Democrats (PSD) led by Oporto lawyer Francisco Sa Carneiro, to abstain in the crucial vote.

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At this point, the test is too expensive to be used on a mass scale. But the research team feels it should soon be used to determine if persons with a family history of high blood-pressure are themselves at risk.

Professor Philippe Meyer, head of the team working at Paris' highly respected Necker Hospital, cautioned in a recent interview that the precise cause of high blood-pressure is not yet clear.

"We have shown that in those people with high blood-pressure there is an anomaly in the membranes of the red blood cells and that this anomaly is genetically transmitted," Mr. Meyer said.

This abnormality in the cell membrane results in unusual ratios of sodium and potassium in the red cells and possibly in other cells throughout the body of the high blood-pressure sufferer, Mr. Meyer said.

"This result, which seems to indicate genetic transmission, suggests that measurement of sodium and potassium in red blood cell fluxes may help to detect subjects liable to high blood-pressure," the team wrote in Lancet.

Mr. Meyer, working with his Necker colleagues Ricardo P. Gray and Mrs. Monique De Mendonca, used sophisticated techniques of flame chromatography to study the red blood cells of high blood-pressure patients, young people with a family history of high blood-pressure, and a control group of young people with no such family history.

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